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E.O. 12958: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - IRAQ CIA DETENTION CENTERS

IRAN

PARIS - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

IRAQ

CIA DETENTION CENTERS

IRAN

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

CONTINUING UNREST IN THE PARIS SUBURBS IS ONCE AGAIN TODAY'S
DOMINATING FRONT-PAGE STORY, WITH PM VILLEPIN ANNOUNCING A NEW
ACTION PLAN TO "SAVE THE SUBURBS" AS REPORTED IN LE FIGARO AND
LES ECHOS.

INTERNATIONAL STORIES ARE DOMINATED BY THE WASHINGTON POST
REPORTS ON SECRET U.S. DETENTION CENTERS OVERSEAS. LIBERATION,
LA CROIX, FRANCE SOIR AND LE FIGARO PICK UP THE WASHINGTON
POST STORY ABOUT "SECRET" DETENTION CENTERS HELD BY THE CIA IN
EASTERN EUROPE. LIBERATION COMMENTS: "THE DETAINEES HAVE NO
LEGAL RIGHTS AND CAN BE DETAINED THEIR WHOLE LIVES IN THESE
CENTERS." (SEE PART C)

IRAN'S STANCE ELICITS AN ANALYSIS IN LE FIGARO WHILE
LIBERATION COMMENTS ON AHMADINEJAD'S RECALL OF SEVERAL
AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING THE ONES FROM PARIS, BERLIN AND LONDON.
LIBERATION ALSO PUBLISHES AN OP-ED ON THE IRAQI CONSTITUTION.

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(SEE PART C)

LA CROIX CARRIES A STORY ABOUT THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES IN SOUTH AMERICA THROUGH A CHICAGO-BASED COMPANY CALLED 'YOUR SOLUTION WORKING OUT OF HONDURAS. "THE RECRUITMENT IS MADE EASIER BECAUSE OF THE POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA. AT NO TIME IN THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS ARE THE PROSPECTS TOLD ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE JOB. IN IRAQ, THIS OUTSOURCING OF SECURITY IS NOW A MARKETABLE PRODUCT BOUGHT AND SOLD WITH THE COMPLICITY OF THE U.S. AND THE UN. ONE OF ITS CONSEQUENCES IS THAT THESE HUMAN LOSSES ARE NOT REGISTERED AS U.S. CASUALTIES."

SEVERAL DAILIES CARRY EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON THE SANCTIONING OF FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS OVER MURDER AND COVER-UP IN THE IVORY COAST. DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT ARNAUD DE LA GRANGE IN LE FIGARO WRITES A COMMENTARY ON THE "LICORNE AFFAIR" IN COTE D'IVOIRE AND THE SANCTIONS AGAINST GENERAL PONCET. DE LA GRANGE DOES NOT EXCUSE THE SOLDIERS, BUT HE WRITES: "INTERVENTIONS ARE BY DEFINITION UNCLEAR OPERATIONS. THE CONFLICTS ARE ILL-DEFINED. MOST OFTEN IT IS CIVILIANS WHO ARE FIGHTING. IN THESE CONFLICTS WITHOUT A WELL-DEFINED FRONT, THE PRESSURE IS ENORMOUS."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

IRAQ

"IRAQ, BETWEEN BALLOTS AND TERRORISM"

KENDAL NEZAN, PRESIDENT OF THE KURD INSTITUTE IN PARIS IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (11/03): "THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT FULLY SATISFY THE KURDS. IT DOES NOT SATISFY ALL THE IRAQIS, BUT IT DOES OFFER FOR THE FIRST TIME AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WHICH RESPECTS THEIR CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY... IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT COUNTERWEIGHTS. THE IRAQI EXAMPLE HAS RAISED THE HOPES OF POPULATIONS ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND WORRIES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, LIKE SYRIA, IRAN AND TURKEY. IN THIS HOSTILE REGIONAL CONTEXT ONE CAN EXPECT THAT THE IRAQI POLITICAL PROCESS WILL BE SLOW IN DEVELOPING INTO PACIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY."

CIA DETENTION CENTERS

"SECRET PRISONS"

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO(11/03): "THE CZECH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR FRANTISEK BUBLAN ASSERTED THAT PRAGUE RECENTLY REJECTED AN AMERICAN REQUEST TO ESTABLISH DETENTION CENTERS ON ITS TERRITORY TO RECEIVE GUANTANMO DETAINEES. ONLY A HANDFUL

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OF U.S. HIGH OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO KNOW ABOUT THIS SYSTEM OF DETENTION."

"SECRET AMERICAN PRISONS ALSO IN EUROPE?"

CATHOLIC LA CROIX (11/03): "THE CZECH INTERIOR MINISTER SAID THAT PRAGUE REJECTED WASHINGTON'S REQUEST THAT HIS COUNTRY ACCEPT PRISONERS FROM GUANTANAMO: 'NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE ABOUT A MONTH AGO. THE AMERICANS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT SOMETHING OF THE SORT HERE, BUT THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL' SAID THE MINISTER ACCORDING TO THE ON-LINE MAGAZINE AKTUALNE.CZ."

"WHEN THE CIA OUT-SOURCES TORTURE"

THOMAS DE ROCHECHOUART IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR (11/03): "WHY IMPLEMENT SUCH A SYSTEM? THE REASON IS OBVIOUS: WITH SUCH A SYSTEM THE CIA CAN CARRY ON INTERROGATIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO ANSWER TO INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. IN EFFECT THIS SYSTEM MEANS THAT THE AGENCY IS OUT-SOURCING CERTAIN PRACTICES THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS TORTURE. THESE REVELATIONS DISCREDIT JUST A BIT MORE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CIA DECLINED ANY COMMENT. IN OTHER WORDS THEY DID NOT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THESE CENTERS."

"UNCLE SAMS HIDDEN CENTERS"

BERNARD GUETTA IN GOVERNMENT-RUN FRANCE INTER RADIO (11/03): "FEARING THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM, THESE DETENTION CENTERS WERE NOT ESTABLISHED IN THE U.S. BUT IN EIGHT COUNTRIES AMONG WHICH ARE AFGHANISTAN, THAILAND AND SEVERAL NEWLY-DEMOCRATIC EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT IN THE U.S. THERE ARE CIVIL SERVANTS AND NEWSPAPERS THAT EXIST TO DENOUNCE THESE BLATANT ATTACKS ON THE RULE OF LAW. THE BAD NEWS IS ALL TOO OBVIOUS. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS NOT DENIED A SINGLE SENTENCE OF THE [WASHINGTON POST] ARTICLE AND THIS CRIME AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS IS POSSIBLE TODAY IN AMERICA WITH THE HELP OF THE FORMER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES."

IRAN

"WHAT DOES AHMADINEJAD WANT?"

ALEXANDRE ADLER IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (11/03): "THE REMARKS ABOUT ISRAEL COMBINED WITH THE GROWING TENSION SURROUNDING THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR CRISIS IS FORCING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACT WITH MORE FORCEFULNESS AND MORE CLARITY. BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DECODE AHMADINEJADS NEW ISOLATION WITHIN IRAN. THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT HAS A STRONG

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DESIRE TO TRIGGER A CONTROVERSY WITH HIS REFORMIST PREDECESSORS AND ALSO WITH THE THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED BY KHATAMI. AHMADINEJAD'S COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL FOLLOWED RAFSNAJANI'S ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE NEW IRAQI CONSTITUTION, WHICH MEANS PRAISE FOR THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND IMPLICITLY FOR THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ. AHMADINEJAD'S PRINCIPAL ENEMY IS DOMESTIC. THEREFORE THE BEST STRATEGY IS TO DENOUNCE THAT ENEMY AS A DOCILE ALLY OF ZIONISM AND TRIGGER A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE WEST MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO PLAY INTO HIS HANDS."

"AN IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC CATAclySM"

JEAN-PIERRE PERRIN IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (11/03): "IN THE MIDST OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION, TEHRAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY IT WAS RECALLING SOME FORTY AMBASSADORS IN THE COMING MONTHS. AMONG THEM, THE AMBASSADORS FROM PARIS, BERLIN AND LONDON, ALL INVOLVED IN THE EU-3 NEGOTIATIONS. THE INITIATIVE MARKS A COMPLETE UPSET IN IRANS DIPLOMACY AT THIS PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL TIME. THIS DIPLOMATIC CATAclySM IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE REGIME. AHMADINEJAD'S DOINGS ARE CLOSELY OBSERVED BY RAFSANJANI WHO HAS ALREADY CRITICIZED HIS RIVAL'S INABILITY TO HAVE HIS MINISTERIAL CHOICES APPROVED."

"A NIGHTMARE"

DENIS JEAMBAR IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY L'EXPRESS (11/03):

"AHMADINEJAD'S HATRED AGAINST ISRAEL IS SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS US ALL. ISRAEL'S BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL IS OUR BATTLE.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/

THE RELATIVE INDIFFERENCE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION AFTER THE WORRISOME DECLARATIONS MADE IN TEHRAN ABOUT WIPING ISRAEL OFF THE MAP IS AN INDICATION OF A PASSIVITY WHICH SHOULD ALERT US. IF SHARON HAD MADE SIMILAR THREATS ABOUT ONE OF ITS NEIGHBORS, EVERYONE WOULD HAVE BEEN MARCHING IN THE STREETS. WHEN IT COMES TO ISRAEL, WE ARE BLIND. THAT NATION IS A DREAM, ALBEIT AN IMPERFECT ONE. IT IS NEVERTHELESS A DREAM THAT HAS BECOME A REALITY. ITS ENEMIES KNOW IT; ITS FRIENDS SOMETIMES FORGET IT. LET US BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET THE DREAM BECOME A NIGHTMARE."

STAPLETON

ADMIN

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